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#12 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

THE ETERNALS

GHAUR TRIUMPHANT!

GUEST-STARRING THE WEST COAST AVENGERS!



STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE DREAMER UNDER THE MOUNTAIN!

FAR BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN IN THE HIDDEN KINGDOM OF LEMURIA...

SCKRUNNNCH!!

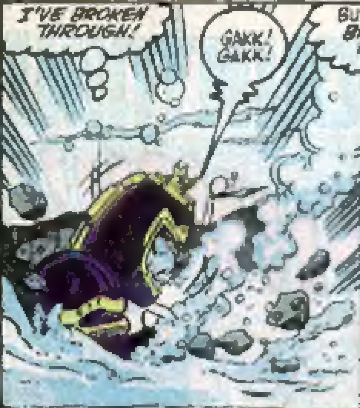
I'VE ABSORBED TOO MUCH POWER! I'M SHATTERING THE ROOF OF THE CITY!!

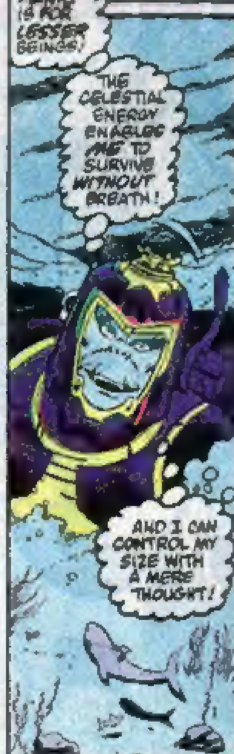
WITH THE STOLEN ENERGY OF A CELESTIAL, GHAUR, PRIESTLORD OF THE DEVIANTS, HAS JUST BECOME ONE OF THE SPACE GODS!

HE IS ABOUT TO LEARN THAT GREAT POWER DOES NOT COME WITHOUT A PRICE!

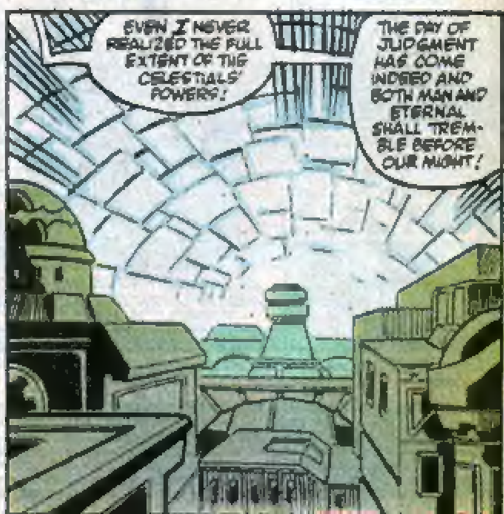
WALTER SIMONSON WRITER / PAUL RYAN PENCILS / DELAROSA/WILLIAMSON FINISHED ART / RICK PARKER LETTERING / GEORGE ROUSSOS COLOR / RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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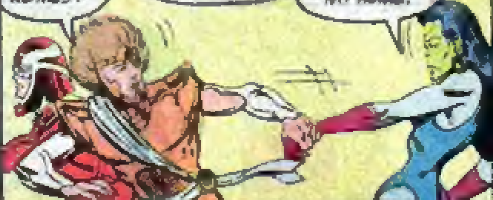

I'VE BROKEN THROUGH!
GAKK! GAKK!

BUT I CAN'T BREATHE HERE!
I'M DROWNING! IT MUSN'T END LIKE THIS!

FOOL! SUCH PANIC IS FOR LESSER BEINGS!
THE CELESTIAL ENERGY ENABLES ME TO SURVIVE WITHOUT BREATH!
AND I CAN CONTROL MY SIZE WITH A MERE THOUGHT!

BUT I MUST PROTECT MY WEAKER BRETHREN, POOR DEVIANTS, FOR THEY HAVE NOT THE GIFT OF ULTIMATE POWER!
I SHALL CARE FOR THEM AND THEY SHALL WORSHIP ME!

LET THE WATERS FLOW UPWARD AND THE GREAT ROOF BE HEALED!
IT IS DONE!

EVEN I NEVER REALIZED THE FULL EXTENT OF THE CELESTIALS' POWERS!
THE DAY OF JUDGMENT HAS COME INDEED AND BOTH MAN AND ETERNAL SHALL TREMBLE BEFORE OUR MIGHT!


BUT AS GHAUR REVELS IN HIS NEW-FOUND POWER... NEARBY, IKARIS THE ETERNAL PREPARES TO MOVE AGAINST THE PRIESTLORD.
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! FOR THE MOMENT, GHAUR HAS FORGOTTEN US AND WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT HIM NOW!
WE'LL TAKE THE EMPTY VIAL FROM WHICH HIS ENERGY CAME! MAYBE WE CAN STILL FIND SOME WAY TO RESTORE IT TO ITS PROPER CONTAINER!
HEAD FOR THE SHIP.


YRDSIS QUICKLY WE MUST--
KHORYPHOS, I CANNOT GO.
THESE ARE MY PEOPLE. THIS IS MY HOME.


AND I AM AN ARTIST. THE EMOTIONAL CHARGE IN THE CITY WILL BE INCREDIBLE! THAT IS WHAT I LIVE FOR!
THEN I'LL STAY WITH YOU.
PERHAPS GHAUR WILL OVERLOOK US IN THE ECSTASY OF HIS PRESENT POWER. AND MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN DO HERE!


SHORTLY...
OLYMPIA AHEAD, IKARIS! WE'VE CIRCLED THE EARTH IN RECORD TIME!
WELL DONE, MAKKARI, BUT TO WHAT END?


HOW LONG TILL OLYMPIA FALLS IF GHAUR STANDS?
WELCOME HOME, IKARIS.
HAIL, KARKAS.
IKARIS, HAVE YOU BROUGHT THENA BACK TO ME?
WE COULDN'T SAVE HER, CYBELE. YOUR DAUGHTER REMAINS IN LEMURIA.
BUT I THINK SHE IS STILL UNHARMED.


IKARIS, HOW COULD SHE DO IT? HOW COULD AN ETERNAL BETRAY HER OWN KIND TO THE DEVIANTS?
THOUGH I AM ONLY A DEVIANT MYSELF, MY LADY, I THINK THAT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE TO THENA'S ACTIONS THAN WE KNOW.
PERHAPS AJAK HAS THE ANSWER.

AND AT THAT MOMENT BELOW THE FIRE PITS IN DEEPEST LEMURIA...

AT LAST!

WE HAVE BEEN LEFT ALONE AS THE DEVIANTS FLOCK TO SEE THEIR NEW GOD!

GHAUR THOUGHT TO PARALYZE MY MIND WITH A BRAIN MINE...

...BUT WHAT USE IS SUCH A DEVICE AGAINST ONE WHO CAN MANIPULATE HIS OWN ATOMS...

...AND PREVENT THE CONTACTS FROM TOUCHING HIS SKIN!

COME, THENA, IT IS TIME WE LEFT THIS DISMAL PLACE!

OHHHH, KRO? WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE PRIESTS HAVE GONE *INSANE*!

GHAUR AND THE REST HAVE BEEN TAKING THE BEST OF THE DEVIANTS FOR MILLENNIA...

...CONDEMNING THEM TO DEATH IN THE FIRE PITS UNDER FALSE PRETENSES...

...AND THEN SECRETLY STORING THEM IN COLDSLEEP COFFINS WHILE THEIR MINDS ARE BEING WIPED CLEAN.

THE PRIESTS ARE CREATING AN ARMY OF *FANATICS* WITH WHICH TO CHALLENGE THE CELESTIALS THEMSELVES!

HERE ARE THE LATEST COFFINS READY TO BE ADDED TO THE EVER-GROWING ARMY BELOW!

LET US PRAY THAT WE ARE NOT TOO LATE!

CATAPHRAX, MY FRIEND, SURELY YOU ARE STILL...

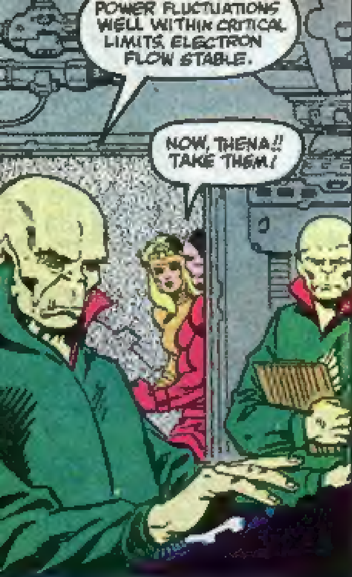
...THE PRIESTS... GHAUR... COMMAND ME... COMMAND ME....... COMM....

HIS *MIND*! WIPED CLEAN *ALREADY*!

OH, MY FRIEND. THE MIGHTY CATAPHRAX DIED INDEED WHEN HE WAS SENT TO THE FIRE PITS.


HE IS ONLY A WILL-LESS, SOULLESS AUTOMATON!
GRANT HIM A CLEANER DEATH THAN THIS, THENA!
FZZAPPT!

AND THERE BELOW US.
THE MILLIONS OF DEVIANTS SUPPOSEDLY SENT TO THE FIRE PITS WHO HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED TO AN ABSOLUTE THRALLDOM THAT DICTATORS ONLY DREAM ABOUT!
I SWEAR I SHALL AVENGE YOU, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
BUT KRO, WHAT CAN WE DO? THERE IS NOTHING LEFT OF THESE PEOPLE.
WE DEVIANTS CAN DO THAT WHICH YOU ETERNALS COULD NEVER FACE!
WE CAN DIE!
AND YOU AND I, THENA! WE CAN PULL THE PLUG! FOLLOW ME!







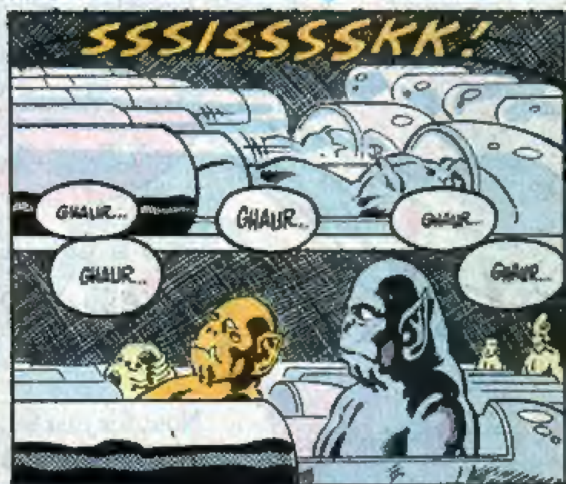


HURRY, MY LOYAL PRIESTS! THE HOUR IS HERE!

WE MAY HAVE BEEN TOO LATE! GHAUR MEANS TO RELEASE HIS ARMY NOW!


LET THE FIFTH HOST BE AWAKENED...
...THAT ALL WHO LIVE SHALL TREMBLE AND BEND THEIR KNEES TO ME!


I WONDER IF WE HAVE CREATED--
NOT ANOTHER WORD, BROTHER.
AT LEAST OUR THOUGHTS ARE STILL OUR OWN.


SSSISSSSSKK!
GHAUR...
GHAUR...
GHAUR...
GHAUR...
GHAUR...


YOUR GOD HEARS YOUR VOICES, MY PEOPLE, AND FINDS THEM GOOD!
OPEN THE GATES TO THE CITY!


NOW, MY FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS, LET GHAUR GUIDE YOU INTO THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE!

AND MOMENTS LATER, BEFORE THE ASTONISHED EYES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF TOADS...

GREETINGS, MY SUBJECTS! THE DAY OF GLORY IS HERE!!

IT... IT'S GHAUR! THE PRIEST LORD!

THE RUMORS WERE TRUE!! HE'S BECOME A CELESTIAL!

BUT WHO'S THAT BEHIND HIM?

WHO ARE THEY?

AND MY FATHER!

WAIT! THAT'S MY WIFE!

HAVE THE DEAD THEMSELVES RISEN TO GREET THIS MOMENT OF TRIUMPH?

THE POPULACE THINKS THAT GHAUR HAS RAISED THE DEAD WITH HIS BLESSINGS!

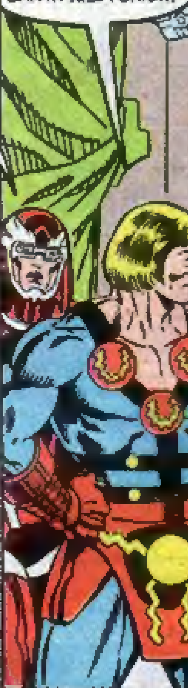
LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT HE HAS CURSED THEM FOR ALL TIME!

KORYPHOS, THE WHOLE KINGDOM VIBRATES WITH AN UNSPOKEN HORROR TILL I CAN HARDLY BEAR IT!

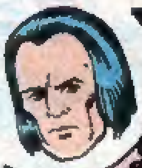
SOMETHING DREADFUL HAS BEGUN!

AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!


AT THAT SELFSAME MOMENT, THE ETERNAL'S SENTIMENT IS BEING ECHOED HALF A WORLD AWAY IN OLYMPIA.
AS LONG AS GHAUR IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE CELESTIAL ENERGY, WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER.

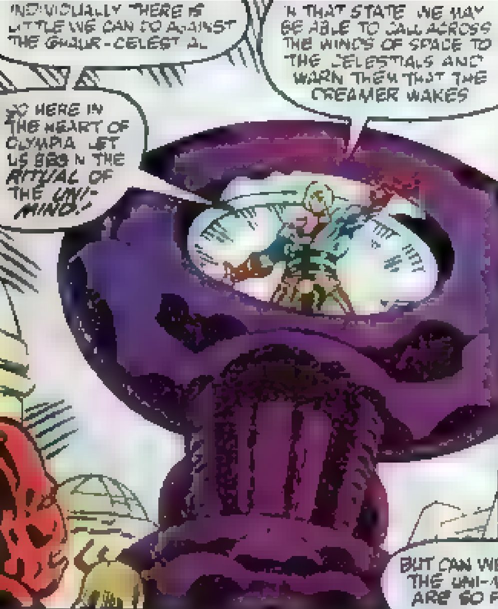

NEVERTHELESS, MAKKARI, WE MUST STOP HIM OR ALL OF EARTH WILL PERISH.
PERHAPS MORE THAN EARTH IS AT STAKE, IKARIS.
I HAVE LIVED AMONG THE GREAT SPACE GODS AS FEW OTHERS HAVE.
AND I FEAR WHAT MAY BE ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
I CARE NOTHING FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN! WHAT OF MY DAUGHTER? WHAT OF THENA?
SHE IS ONLY A PAWN NOW, CYBELE.


AS ARE WE ALL, SERSI.
GHAUR'S POWER ORIGINALLY CAME FROM THE FALLEN CELESTIAL WHOM THE SPACE GODS FOUGHT AND DEFEATED IN AGES PAST.
THAT CELESTIAL SLEEPS NOW BENEATH THE MOUNTAINS OF CALIFORNIA...
...AND HIS DREAMS ARE OF REVENGE.
GHAUR MAY THINK HE SERVES HIS OWN ENDS BY WEARING THE DREAMING CELESTIAL'S FORM, BUT I THINK OTHERWISE.

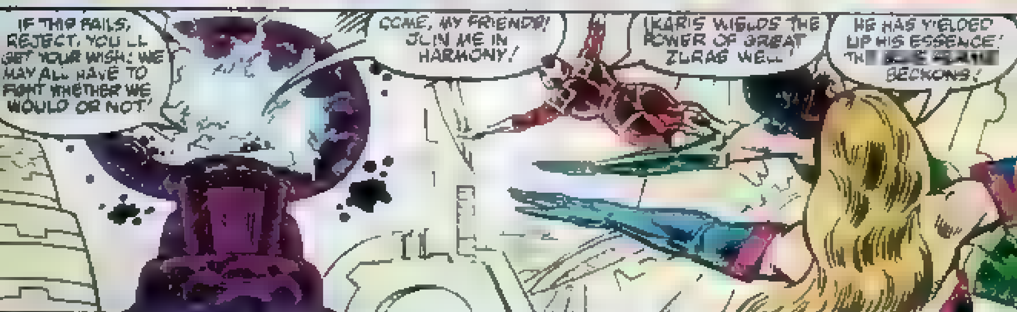

I THINK THE DREAMER IS TRYING TO WAKE UP!
AND IF HE SUCCEEDS, THE WAR BETWEEN THE SPACE GODS WOULD NOT SPARE OUR PLANET.


THEN WE MUST SUMMON HIS BROTHER CELESTIALS IF WE CAN BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.

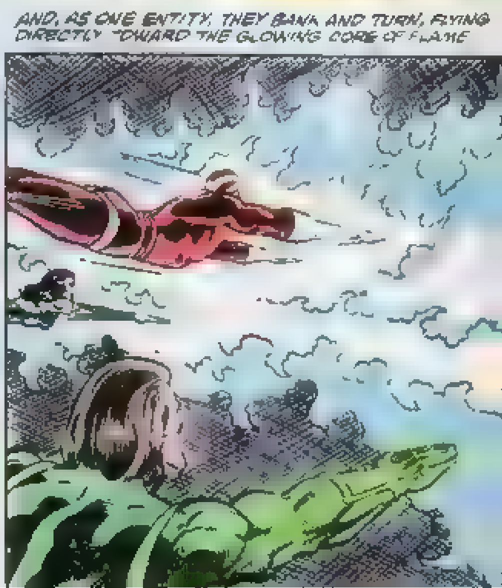

FOLLOW ME. TIME RUNS SHORT.


INDIVIDUALLY THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO AGAINST THE GHAUR-CELESTIAL
SO HERE IN THE HEART OF OLYMPIA LET US BEGIN THE RITUAL OF THE UNI-MIND!
IN THAT STATE WE MAY BE ABLE TO CALL ACROSS THE WINDS OF SPACE TO THE CELESTIALS AND WARN THEM THAT THE DREAMER WAKES


WHO KNOWS? BUT ALL OF US, DEVIANT AND ETERNAL ALIKE MUST TRY!
BAH KINGO! THIS IS SIMPLY ONE MORE ETERNAL TRICK.
GIVE ME A WEAPON AND LET ME FIGHT THE FOE I SEE!
BUT CAN WE TRULY ACHIEVE THE UNI-MIND WHEN THERE ARE SO FEW OF US?

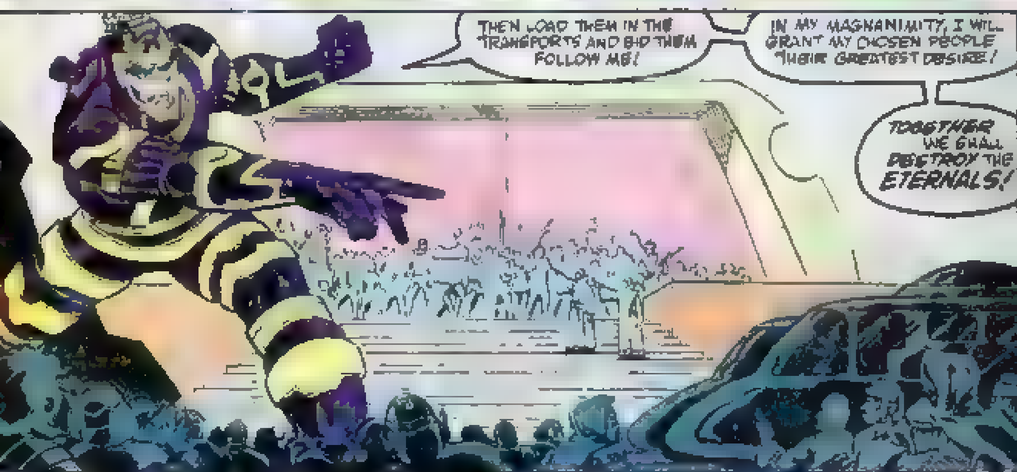

IF THIS FAILS, REJECT, YOU'LL GET YOUR WISH: WE MAY ALL HAVE TO FIGHT WHETHER WE WOULD OR NOT!
COME, MY FRIENDS! JOIN ME IN HARMONY!
IKARIS WIELDS THE POWER OF GREAT ZURAS WELL!
HE HAS YIELDED UP HIS ESSENCE! TH[redacted] BECKONS!


SUDDENLY, A SEETHING COLUMN OF COLD FIRE SPEWS FORTH INTO THE SKY TOWARD THE ARCING FLIGHT OF THE ETERNALS.

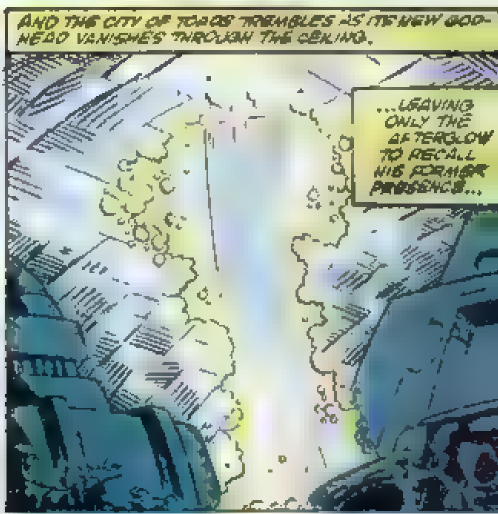

AND, AS ONE ENTITY, THEY BANK AND TURN, FLYING DIRECTLY TOWARD THE GLOWING CORE OF FLAME

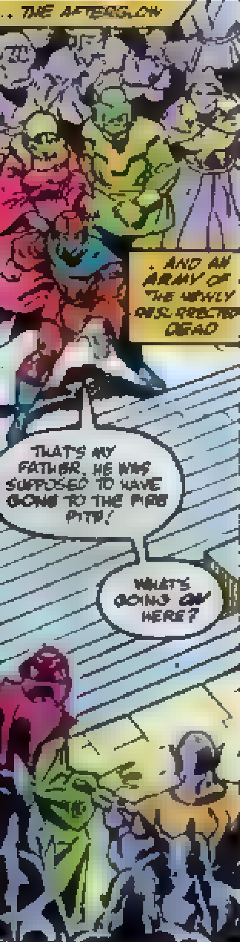

WHILE MANY MILES AWAY,
WHAT'S THIS? THE ETERNALS SEEK TO FORM THE UNI-MIND!
IT MUST NOT BE PERMITTED!
MY LORD?


HEAR MY COMMANDS AND OBEY THEM!
LEAVE THE VAN-GUARD OF THE RES-URRECTED HERE TO KEEP ORDER IN THE CITY!
BUT SEE THAT THE REST ARE PROPERLY ARMED AND ARMORED!

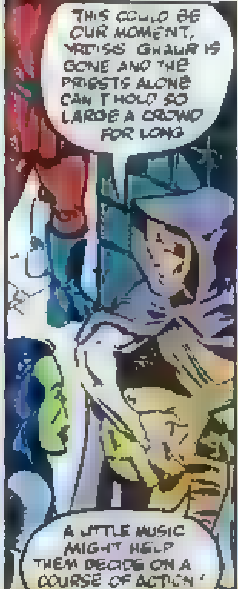

THEN LOAD THEM IN THE TRANSPORTS AND BID THEM FOLLOW ME!
IN MY MAGNANIMITY, I WILL GRANT MY CHOSEN PEOPLE THEIR GREATEST DESIRE!
TOGETHER WE SHALL DESTROY THE ETERNALS!


NOW BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
THE LIGHT! I CAN'T SEE!


AND THE CITY OF TOADS TREMBLES AS ITS NEW GOD-HEAD VANISHES THROUGH THE CEILING.
...LEAVING ONLY THE AFTERGLOW TO RECALL HIS FORMER PRESENCE...


... THE AFTERGLOW
... AND AN ARMY OF THE NEWLY RESURRECTED DEAD
THAT'S MY FATHER. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GONE TO THE FIRE PITS!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


... WHOSE LOYALTIES ARE UNQUESTIONED!
SILENCE, DOG -- AND BE THANKFUL YOU DIDN'T JOIN HIM!
NOW MOVE ALONG!


THIS COULD BE OUR MOMENT. YRI'SIS GHAUR IS GONE AND THE PRIESTS ALONE CAN'T HOLD SO LARGE A CROWD FOR LONG
A LITTLE MUSIC MIGHT HELP THEM DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION!


AND AS KORYPHOS TOUCHES THE STRINGS.
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?


FATHER, FORGET THE PRIESTS AND--
SLAY HIM!

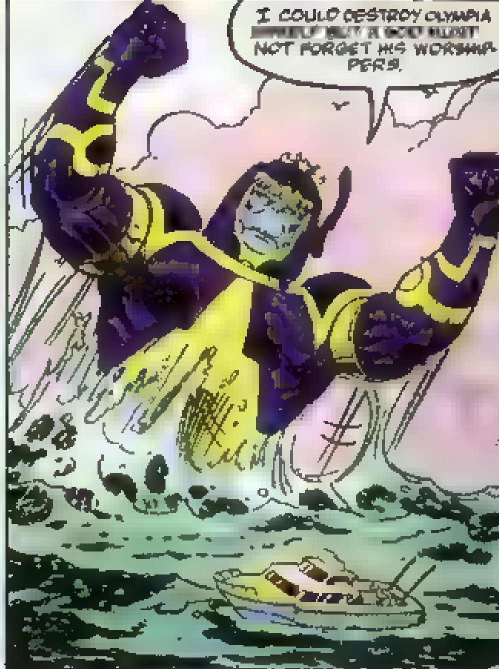

NO! FATHER, NOOO!
BRAAKKK!


TAKE CARE THAT YOU DO NOT RAISE YOUR HANDS AGAINST THE PRIESTS OF GHAUR AGAIN!
BACK, RABBLE! THE DAY OF JUDGMENT IS HERE!

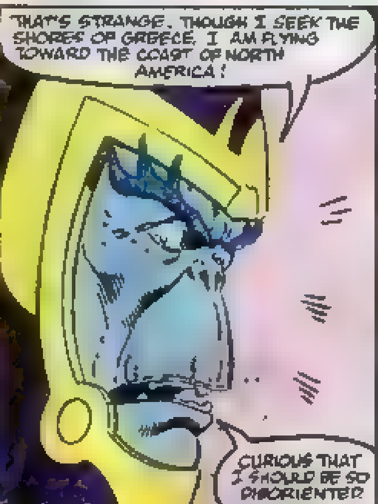

BACK! GET BACK!
UNBELIEVABLE. THAT A FATHER SHOULD TURN ON HIS SON
THIS IS NOT OLYMPIA, KORYPHOS.

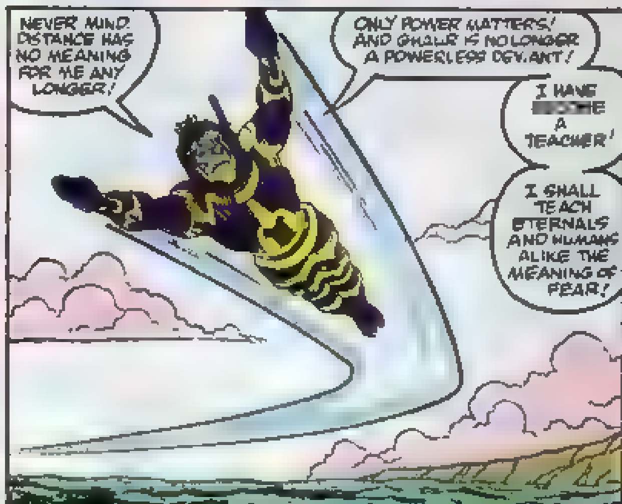

THE DEVIANTS ARE UNLIKE ANY HUMANS YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN..
AND WE LIVE IN A CORNER OF HADES


MEANWHILE, ABOVE THE CITY
ALL ABOUT ME ARE THE RUINS OF ANCIENT LEMURIA...
...REMINDERS OF THE DAYS OF GREATNESS OF THE DEVIANTS BEFORE THE CELESTIALS BROKE THEIR CONTINENT -- AND SANK THEIR KINGDOM!
THIS SHALL BE RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY WHEN I AM THROUGH WITH THE ETERNALS!


I COULD DESTROY OLYMPIA [redacted] NOT FORGET HIS WORSHIPPERS.


HOW LONG HAVE WE PRAYED IN THE DARKNESS FOR THE POWER TO SMITE OUR ENEMIES!
IN A LITTLE WHILE, I SHALL REACH OLYMPIA AND THEN--


THAT'S STRANGE. THOUGH I SEEK THE SHORES OF GREECE, I AM FLYING TOWARD THE COAST OF NORTH AMERICA!
CURIOUS THAT I SHOULD BE SO DISORIENTED!


NEVER MIND. DISTANCE HAS NO MEANING FOR ME ANY LONGER!
ONLY POWER MATTERS! AND GHAUR IS NO LONGER A POWERLESS DEVIANT!
I HAVE [redacted] A TEACHER!
I SHALL TEACH ETERNALS AND HUMANS ALIKE THE MEANING OF FEAR!

BUT IN OLYMPIA, THERE IS ALREADY MORE THAN A TOUCH OF UNEASINESS HERE.

I'VE FLOWN RIGHT THROUGH THE BLUE FLAME! BUT THERE'S NO UNION, NO JOINING!

WE HAVEN'T ACHIEVED THE UNI-MIND!

IKARIS!

I DON'T KNOW MAKKARI! MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT AND WE ARE TOO FEW!

BUT THE UNI-MIND COULD BE EARTH'S ONLY CHANCE! CIRCLE AND TRY AGAIN! I SHALL--

THE DAYS OF THE UNI-MIND ARE FINISHED FOREVER!

SKEEEAWWK

BEHIND US! IT'S...

WHAT?!




...AND FOUND WANTING!!


WORSHIP ME AND LIVE! DEFY ME AND YOU SHALL FIND THAT EVEN ETERNALS CAN DIE!
RATHER WOULD WE SUFFER DAMNATION A THOUSAND TIMES, GHAUR...
...THAN BEND OUR KNEES TO YOU!

IT CAN BE ARRANGED!
BEHOLD! THE FIFTH HOST!

AND ABOVE OLYMPIA, THE SKIES DARKEN AS VESSELS OF HATE FILL THE HEAVENS...
DEATH!
DEATH TO THE ETERNALS!

...AND THE ARMIES OF WAR DESCEND SCREAMING INTO THE ETERNALS' AGELESS SANCTUARY!
DEATH!
DEATH!



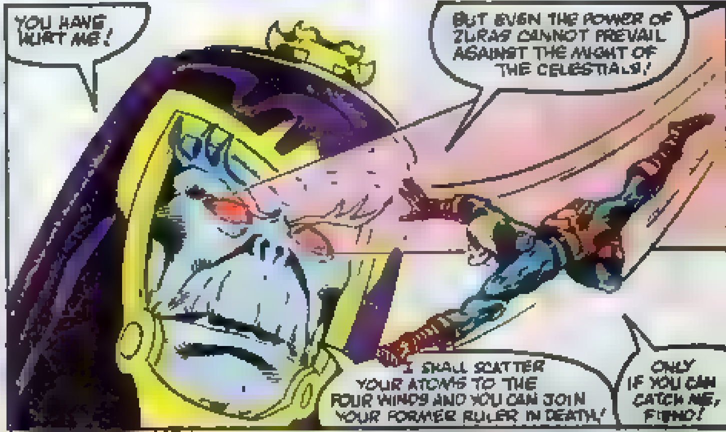
YOU ARE NOT FIT TO TREAD THE MARBLE FLAGGING WHERE GREAT ZURAS ONCE WALKED, GHAUR.

I CARRY HIS MANTLED POWER NOW AND THOUGH I HAVE ONLY BEEN ITS MASTER A SHORT TIME*...

* SINCE ETERNALS # 4 TO BE EXACT! -- MAC-HARRI.



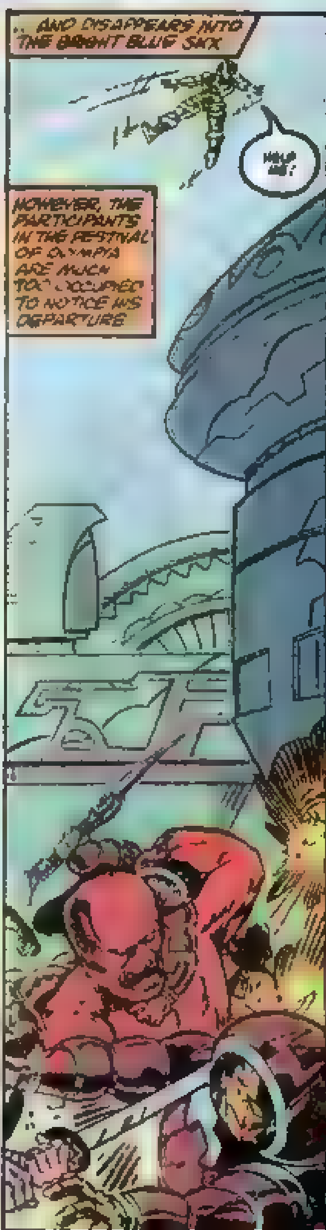





THEN LIVE, IKARIS!
AND WITNESS THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING YOU HAVE HELD DEAR FOR MILLENNIA!
WHEN ALL IS DUST, YOU SHALL FOLLOW.

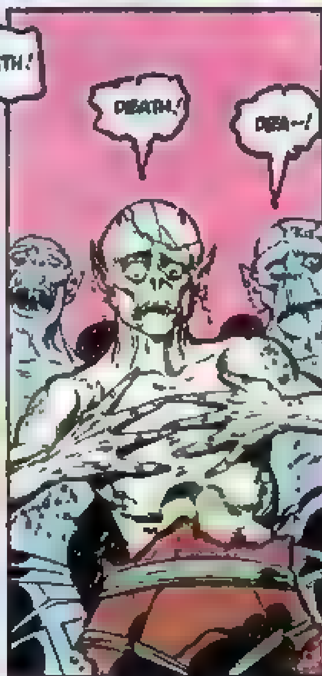

THIS IS GHAUR'S BOON TO THE DEVIANTS' MOST DETERMINED FOE!
WHA--?!
GHAUR?


WAIT!! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
HELP!
MY FOLLOWERS! HEAR ME!
AND SLOWLY, THE PRIEST-LORD GHAUR RISES INTO THE AIR...

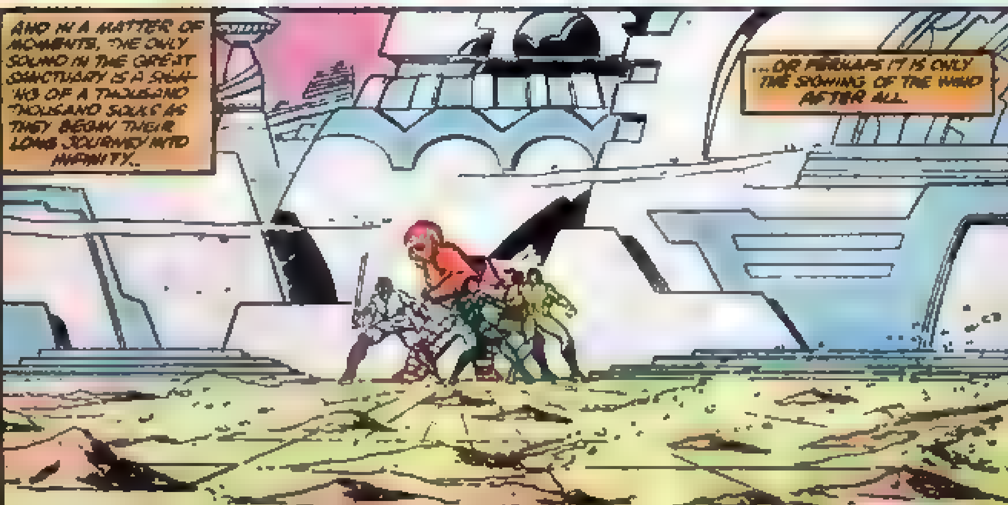

...AND DISAPPEARS INTO THE BRIGHT BLUE SKY.
HOWEVER, THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FESTIVAL OF OLYMPIA ARE MUCH TOO OCCUPIED TO NOTICE HIS DEPARTURE

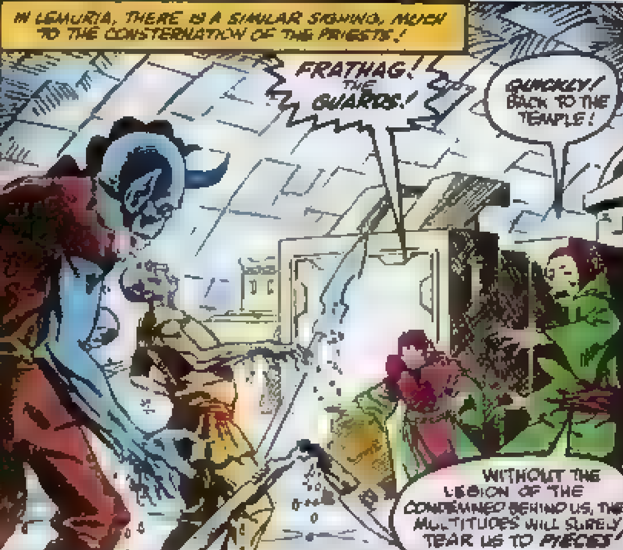

WE'RE SURROUNDED!
AND MORE ARE RAINING DOWN FROM THE SKY EVERY SECOND!
THEN WE SHALL SHOW THEM THAT ETERNALS CAN FACE DEATH AS WELL AS ANY DEVIANT!!


COME ON, YOU DEVILS! COME AND DIE!
DEATH!
DEATH!

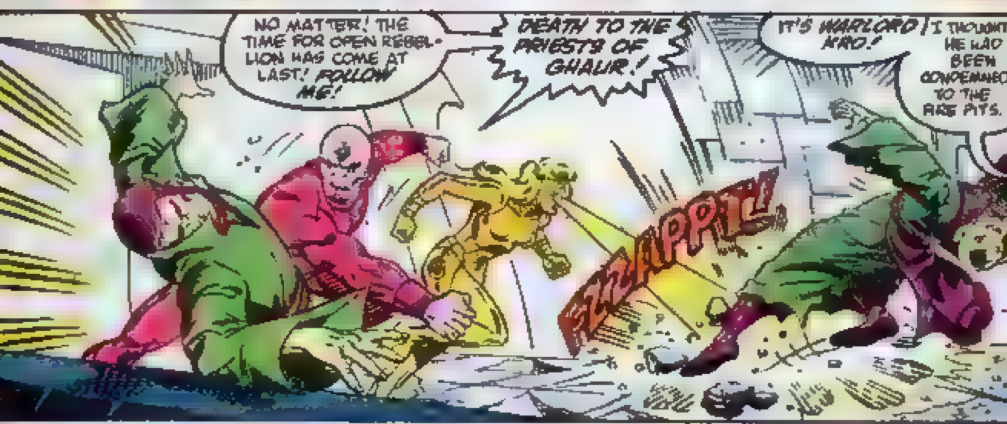

DEATH!
DEA--!

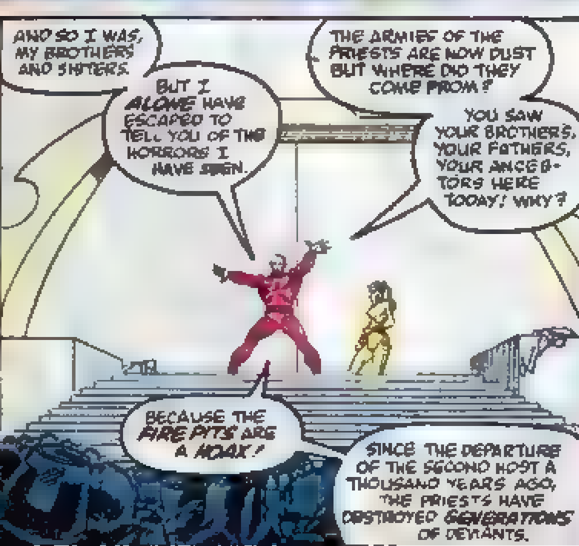

IKARIS?


AND IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THE ONLY SOUND IN THE GREAT SANCTUARY IS A SIGH-ING OF A THOUSAND THOUSAND SOULS AS THEY BEGIN THEIR LONG JOURNEY INTO INFINITY..
...OR PERHAPS IT IS ONLY THE SIGHING OF THE WIND AFTER ALL.



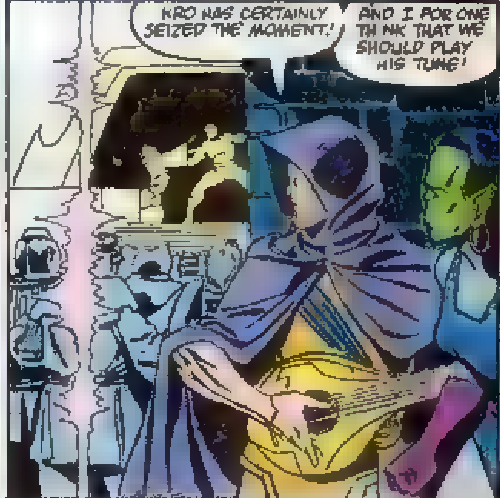
THENA, WE SUCCEEDED AFTER ALL!
THE BONDS THAT KEPT THE LIVING DEAD BOUND TO LIFE WERE BROKEN AFTER ALL!
PERHAPS THE REACTION WAS DELAYED UNTIL THEY WERE COMPLETELY UNFROZEN!

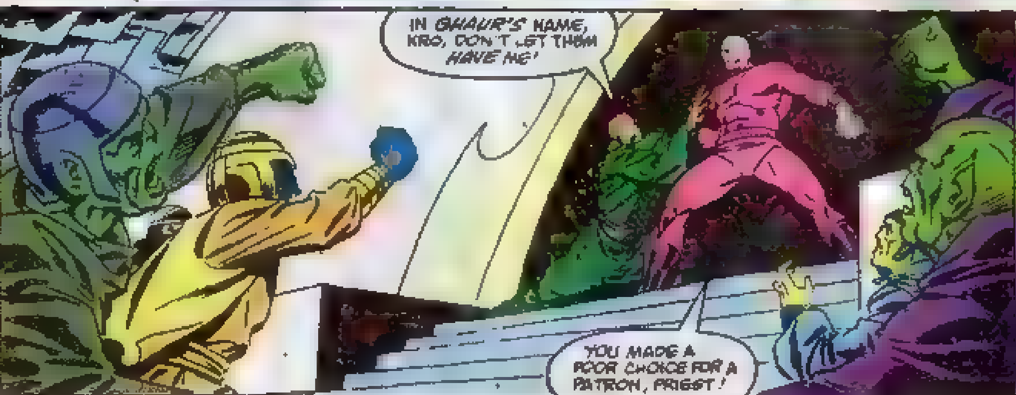




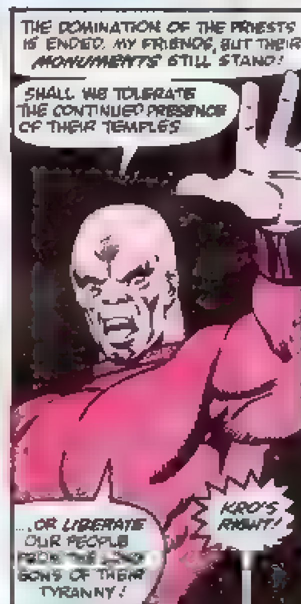



ONLY THE HAND OF FORTUNE PRE-VENTED IT!
THE DEVIANTS MAY NOT LOVE THEIR FAMILIES BUT THEY RESPECT THE DEAD...
...AND THE DESECRATION OF OUR DEAD IS THE LEGACY OF THE PRIESTS!

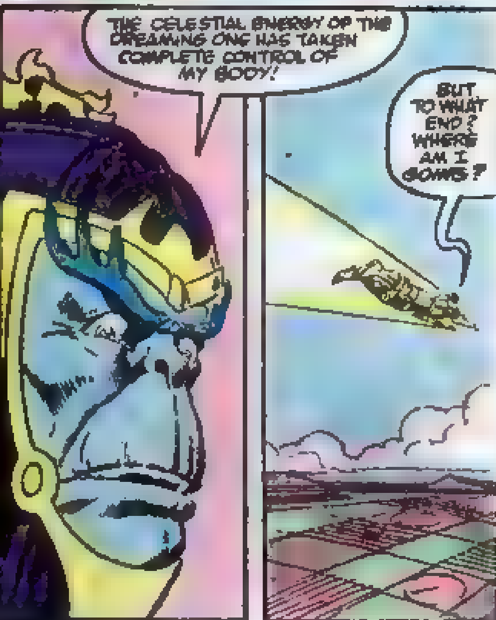
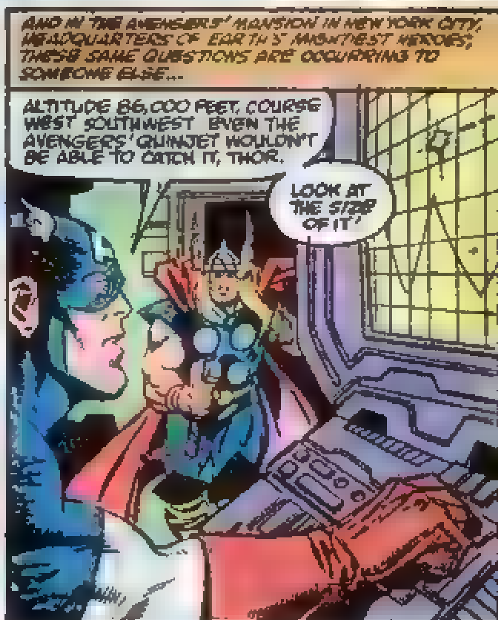
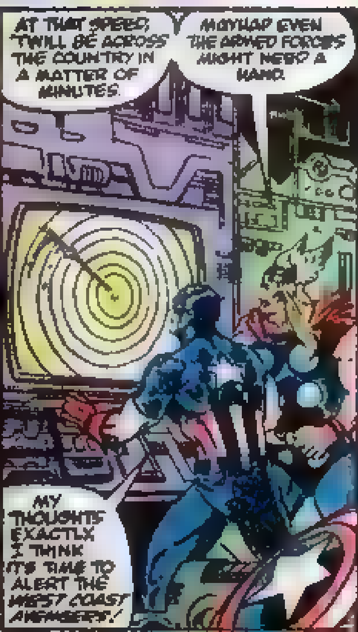
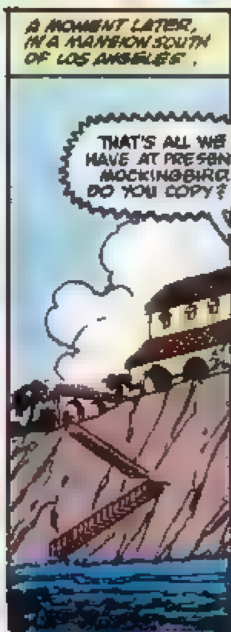

KRO HAS CERTAINLY SEIZED THE MOMENT!
AND I FOR ONE THINK THAT WE SHOULD PLAY HIS TUNE!


IN GHAUR'S NAME, KRO, DON'T LET THEM HAVE ME!
YOU MADE A POOR CHOICE FOR A PATRON, PRIEST!


PERHAPS HE CAN SAVE YOU!
AAIIEEEEE!!

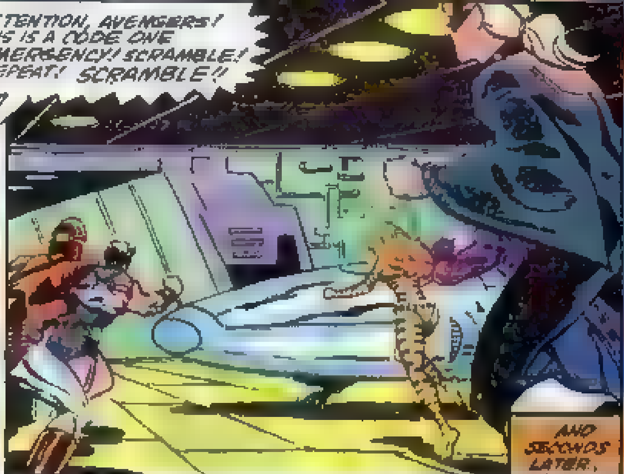

THE DOMINATION OF THE PRIESTS IS ENDED, MY FRIENDS, BUT THEIR MONUMENTS STILL STAND!
SHALL WE TOLERATE THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THEIR TEMPLES...
...OR LIBERATE OUR PEOPLE
EONS OF THEIR TYRANNY!
KRO'S RIGHT!


STRIKE DOWN THE BETRAYERS!
WE MUST FOLLOW KHORY!
YROISIS?
WE MAY NEVER SEE A MOMENT LIKE AGAIN AND THE ANGER OF THE PEOPLE IS UN-BELIEVABLE!
THIS IS MY ART MADE FLESH!

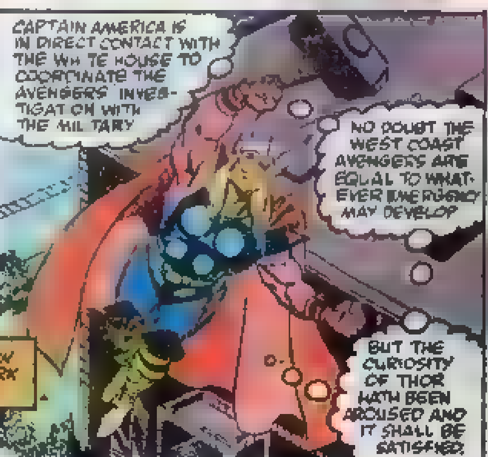

MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND, I'M TRAVELING FARTHER AND FARTHER FROM LEMURIA!
AND TRY AS I MIGHT, I AM UNABLE TO ALTER MY COURSE!

THE CELESTIAL ENERGY OF THE DREAMING ONE HAS TAKEN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY BODY!
BUT TO WHAT END? WHERE AM I GOING?

AND IN THE AVENGERS' MANSION IN NEW YORK CITY, HEADQUARTERS OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, THESE SAME QUESTIONS ARE OCCURRING TO SOMEONE ELSE...
ALTITUDE 86,000 FEET, COURSE WEST SOUTHWEST. EVEN THE AVENGERS' QUINJET WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CATCH IT, THOR.
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT!

AT THAT SPEED, 'TWILL BE ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.
MAYHAP EVEN THE ARMED FORCES MIGHT NEED A HAND.
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY. I THINK IT'S TIME TO ALERT THE WEST COAST AVENGERS!

A MOMENT LATER, IN A MANSION SOUTH OF LOS ANGELES.
THAT'S ALL WE HAVE AT PRESENT, MOCKINGBIRD. DO YOU COPY?

LOUD AND CLEAR, CAP. IRON MAN REPORTS A RADAR SIGHTING HERE NOW AS WELL.


LOOKS LIKE IT'S ZEROING IN ON THE DIABLO MOUNTAINS OF CALIFORNIA

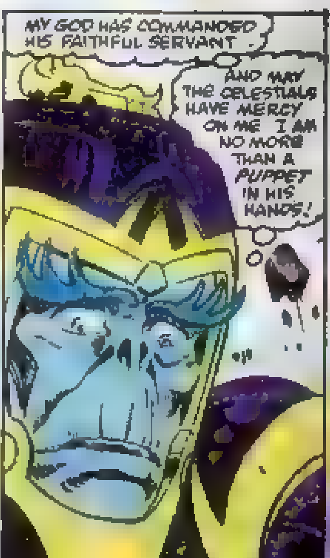

ATTENTION, AVENGERS! THIS IS A CODE ONE EMERGENCY! SCRAMBLE! REPEAT! SCRAMBLE!!
AND SECONDS LATER.

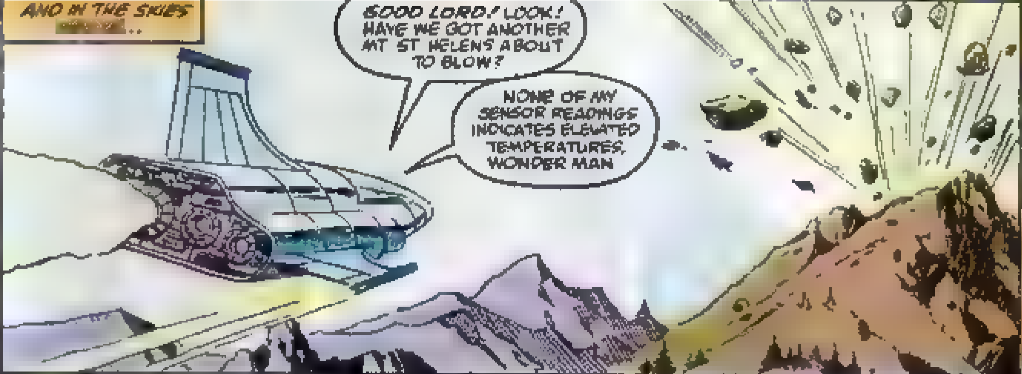

SCHROOOOOARRR!!
WHILE IN NEW YORK CITY.

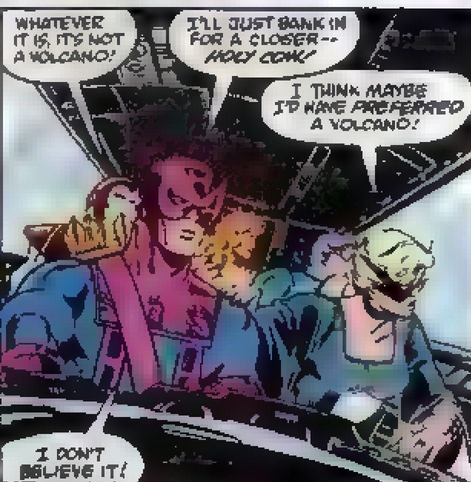

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE TO COORDINATE THE AVENGERS' INVESTIGATION WITH THE MILITARY
NO DOUBT THE WEST COAST AVENGERS ARE EQUAL TO WHATEVER EMERGENCY MAY DEVELOP
BUT THE CURIOSITY OF THOR HATH BEEN AROUSED AND IT SHALL BE SATISFIED.


MEANWHILE, IN THE DIABLO MOUNTAINS..
AT LAST, I AM BEING FORCED TO LAND.
BUT NOT HERE! ANYWHERE BUT HERE!
BENEATH THE MOUNTAIN LIES THE CRYPT OF THE DREAMING CELESTIAL!

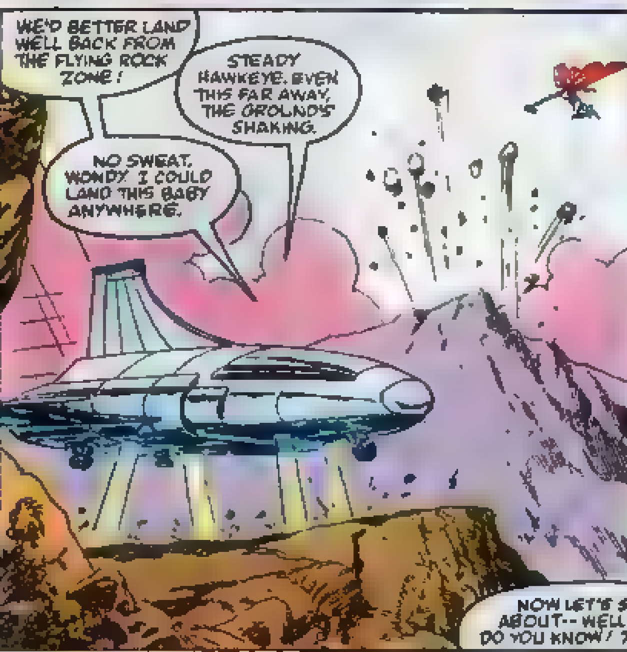

AND SHOULD HIS ANCIENT VAULT BE BREACHED ALL MANKIND - ETERNAL, HUMAN AND DEVIANT-- MAY PERISH.

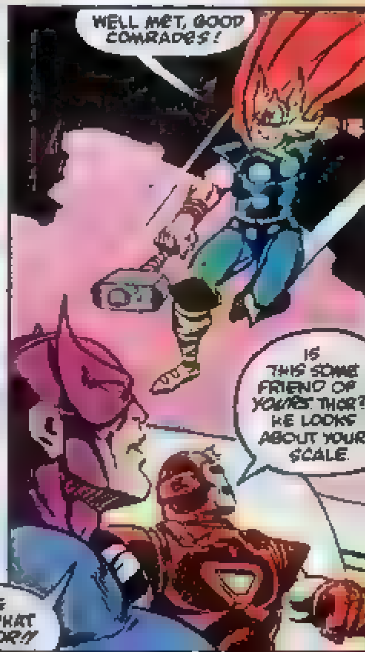

MY GOD HAS COMMANDED HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT.
AND MAY THE CELESTIALS HAVE MERCY ON ME. I AM NO MORE THAN A PUPPET IN HIS HANDS!

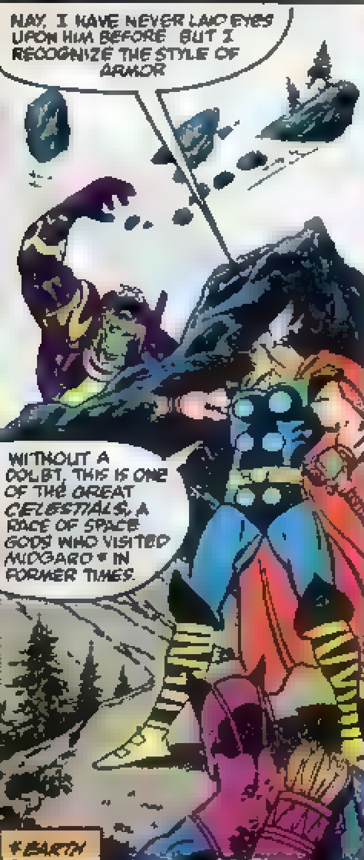

AND IN THE SKIES
GOOD LORD! LOOK! HAVE WE GOT ANOTHER MT ST HELENS ABOUT TO BLOW?
NONE OF MY SENSOR READINGS INDICATES ELEVATED TEMPERATURES, WONDER MAN

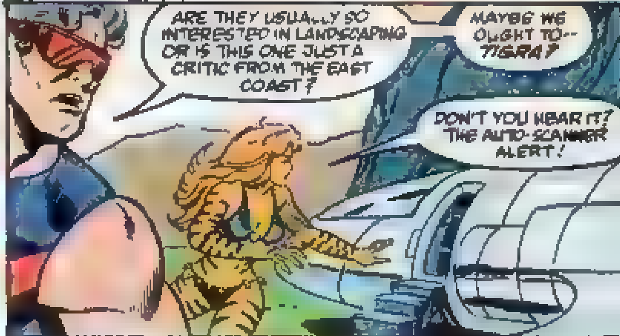

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NOT A VOLCANO!
I'LL JUST BANK IN FOR A CLOSER-- HOLY COW!
I THINK MAYBE I'D HAVE PREFERRED A VOLCANO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!


THAT GUY MAKES KING KONG LOOK LIKE A MIDGET!
HE'S TOSSING AROUND TONS OF BOULDERS LIKE THEY WERE STYROFOAM!


WE'D BETTER LAND WELL BACK FROM THE FLYING ROCK ZONE!
STEADY HAWKEYE. EVEN THIS FAR AWAY, THE GROUND'S SHAKING.
NO SWEAT, WONDY. I COULD LAND THIS BABY ANYWHERE.


WELL MET, GOOD COMRADES!
IS THIS SOME FRIEND OF YOURS, THOR? HE LOOKS ABOUT YOUR SCALE.
NOW LET'S SEE ABOUT-- WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! THOR!!







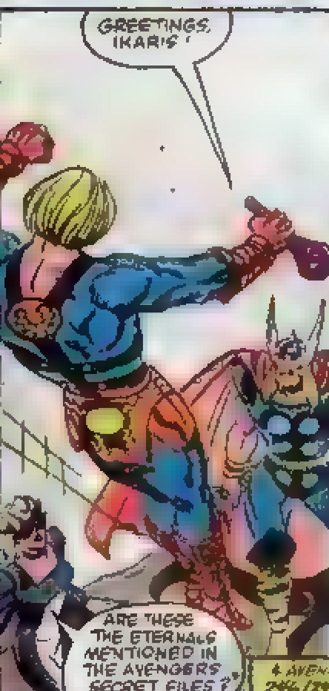


YOU CAN SKIP THE COUNT, TIGRA! THEY'RE ALREADY HERE! AND HEADIN' RIGHT FOR THE ACTION!

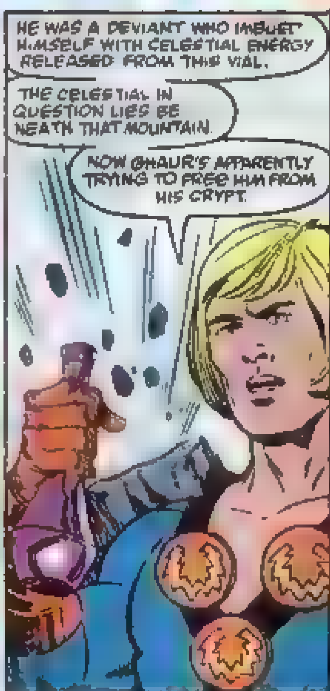
BY THE BEARD OF ODIN! 'TIS THE ETERNALS! AND IKARIS!!

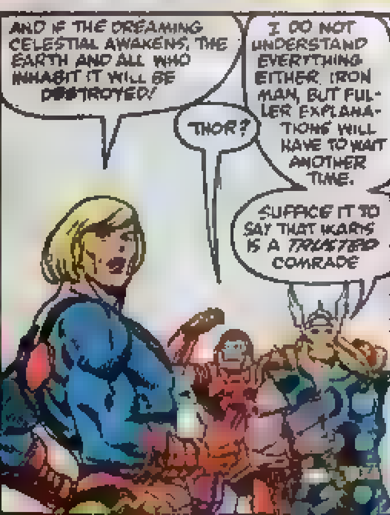
MAKKARI, LEAD THE ATTACK! I'M PEELING OFF!

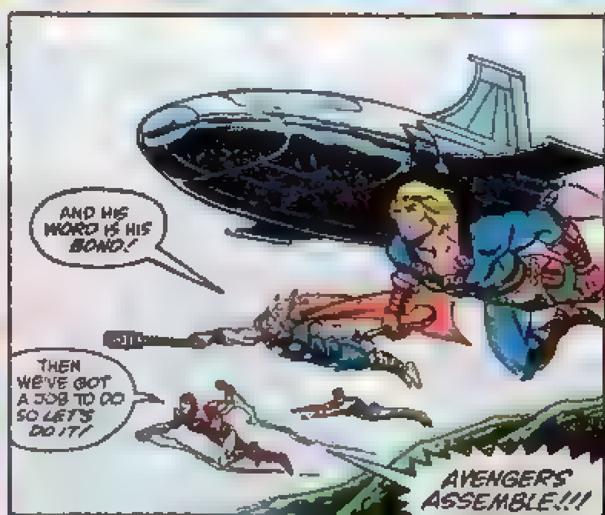

THOR! AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS!
WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!


GREETINGS, IKARIS!
ARE THESE THE ETERNALS MENTIONED IN THE AVENGERS SECRET FILES?*


THE VERY SAME, MA'AM.
AND THE CELESTIAL?
GHAUR'S ONLY A XEROX COPY BUT HE'S DANGEROUS FOR ALL THAT.
* AVENGERS #s 246/248--MAC.


HE WAS A DEVIANT WHO IMBUED HIMSELF WITH CELESTIAL ENERGY RELEASED FROM THIS VIAL.
THE CELESTIAL IN QUESTION LIES BENEATH THAT MOUNTAIN.
NOW GHAUR'S APPARENTLY TRYING TO FREE HIM FROM HIS CRYPT.


AND IF THE DREAMING CELESTIAL AWAKENS, THE EARTH AND ALL WHO INHABIT IT WILL BE DESTROYED!
THOR?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING EITHER, IRON MAN, BUT FULLER EXPLANATIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER TIME.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT IKARIS IS A TRUSTED COMRADE


AND HIS WORD IS HIS BOND!
THEN WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO SO LET'S DO IT!
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!!

THE DIABLO MOUNTAINS ECHO WITH THE FORCE OF THE ATTACK BY THE COMBINED FORCE OF ETERNALS AND AVENGERS

BUT FOR LONG MOMENTS THEY SEEM TO HAVE NO MORE EFFECT THAN GNATS SWARMING AROUND AN ELEPHANT!

PERHAPS MY REPULSOR RAYS WILL BE ABLE TO PIERCE HIS ARMORED SHELL!

ALREADY GHAUR HAS DUG WELL INTO THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN!

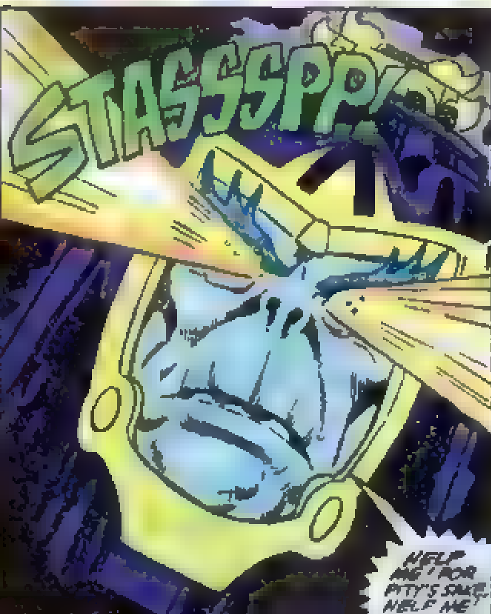
AND THE PIT HE DIGS PROTECTS HIM FROM US!

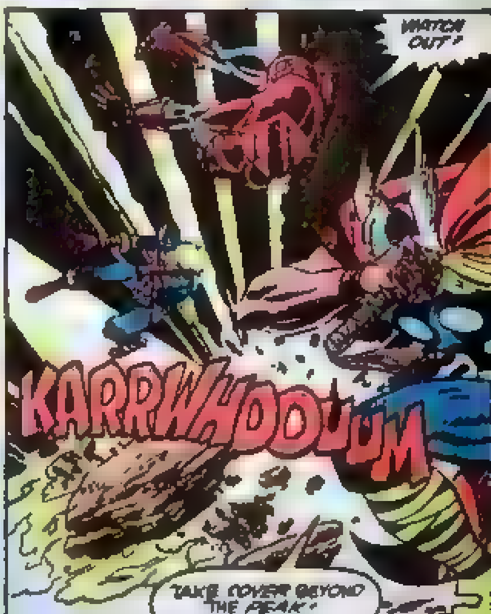
LET THE GIANT FEEL THE POWER OF THE HAMMER OF THOR!

BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT,

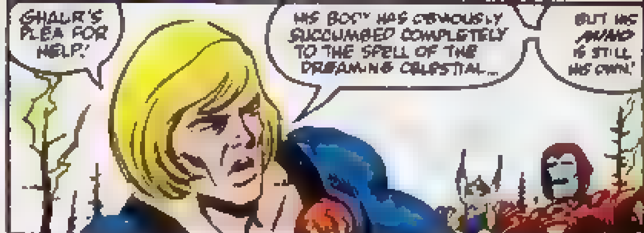
GET BACK, ALL OF YOU! I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF!

AND I SHALL DESTROY YOU IF YOU PERSIST IN YOUR EFFORTS TO DELAY ME!



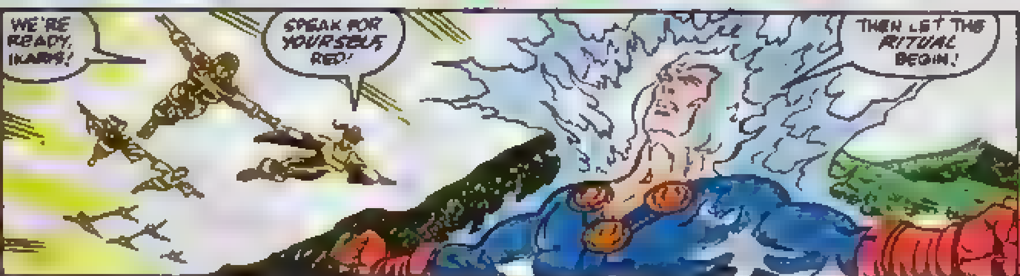


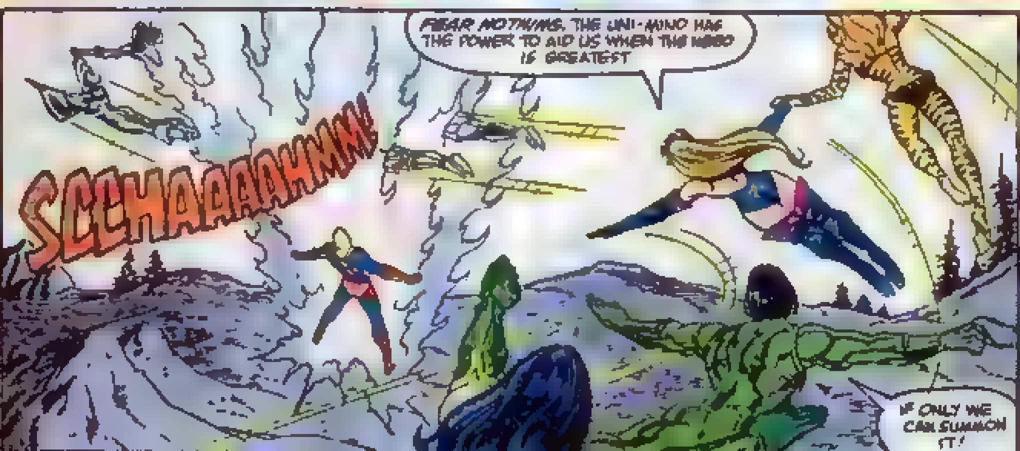

HELP ME! HELP ME! HELP ME!
THAT THING'S SET FIRE TO THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN-SIDE AND HE'S ASKING US TO SAVE HIM?!
THAT'S IT! THAT COULD BE THE ANSWER!
WHAT COULD BE THE ANSWER?!


GHAUR'S PLEA FOR HELP!
HIS BODY HAS OBVIOUSLY SUCCUMBED COMPLETELY TO THE SPELL OF THE DREAMING CELESTIAL...
BUT HIS MIND IS STILL HIS OWN!


MAYBE THE UNI-MIND CAN RE-INFORCE HIS WILL AND STOP HIM FROM CONTINUING THIS MADNESS!
WITH THE ADDITION OF THE AVENGERS, WE MAY HAVE ENOUGH MINDS NOW TO REACH CRITICAL MASS!
SAY WHAT?


BUT WE NEED TIME!
THEN THE STRONGEST SHALL PURCHASE IT EVEN AT THE COST OF THEIR LIVES IF NECESSARY!

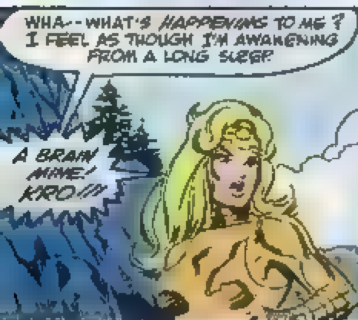

WE'RE READY, IKARIS!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, RED!
THEN LET THE RITUAL BEGIN!

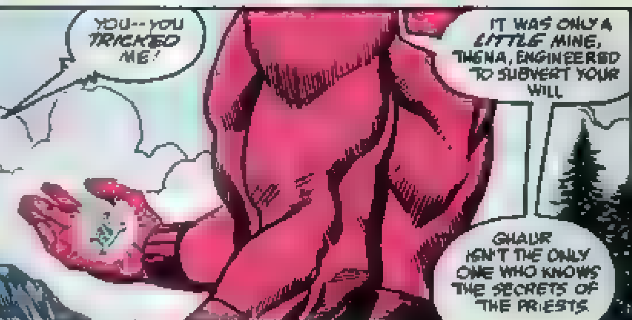

SCCHAAAAAHMMM!
FEAR NOTHING. THE UNI-MIND HAS THE POWER TO AID US WHEN THE NEED IS GREATEST
IF ONLY WE CAN SUMMON IT!


AT THAT MOMENT ON A NEARBY RIDGE...
WELL DONE, THENA! YOU HAVE TELEPORTED US TO THE SCENE AT THE MOMENT OF DECISION!
GHAUR HAS NOT YET BREACHED THE VAULT OF THE DREAMING CELESTIAL!
KRO, IT'S THE BLUE FLAME! 'KAR'S MUST [redacted] UNITE THE UNI-MIND!


BUT IT'S NOT WORKING!
THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE CAST OF THE DIE LEFT TO ME.
THE UNI-MIND MAY HOLD THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF GHAUR!


WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT!
I HOPE I DON'T LIVE TO REGRET THIS BUT I EXPECT I WILL.
KRO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SETTING FREE MY LAST WEAPON! HOLD STILL!


WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M AWAKENING FROM A LONG SLEEP.
A BRAIN MINE! KRO!!!


YOU--YOU TRICKED ME!
IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE MINE, THENA, ENGINEERED TO SUBVERT YOUR WILL.
GHAUR ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE SECRETS OF THE PRIESTS.


I'LL REDUCE YOU TO ATOMS FOR THIS!
TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT LATER, THENA!
GHAUR THREATENS US ALL AND IF KAR'S HAS FOUND A WAY TO DESTROY HIM WITH THE UNI-MIND.


THEN EVERY SECOND YOU WASTE ON ME IS ONE MORE SECOND YOU RISK THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERY-THING!
SOME DAY, KRO, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO FACE EACH OTHER AGAIN..


...AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, KILLING WILL BE TOO GOOD FOR YOU!
I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UP MY GREATEST PRIZE, THENA! -- YOU! I IMAGINE DYING WOULD BE JUST ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT.





AND AS THE FLAME BEGINS TO BURN BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER WITH EACH NEW ADDITION...

...THE GLOWING CORE OF FIRE TAKES ON NEW DIMENSIONS

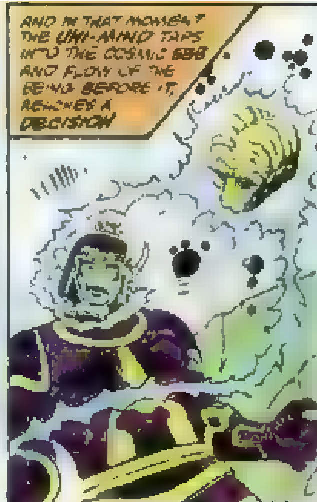
...PULSING WITH ENERGY, RE-DEFINING SPACE AND ALTERING THE EQUATIONS OF REALITY.

UNTIL AN ENTITY EMERGES THAT IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS!

THE UNI-MIND IS BORN AGAIN!

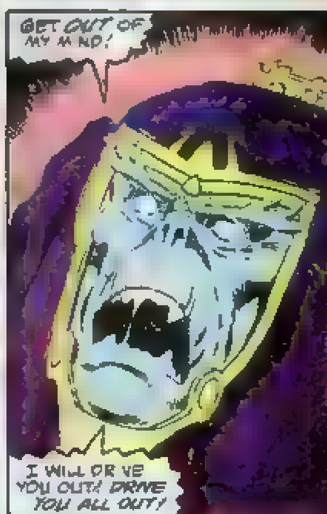

QUICKLY
TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF THE POTENTIAL CATASTROPHE IN THE DIABLO MOUNTAINS!
THIS THING'S GIVING UP THE FIGHT!


MAYHAP HE SENSES THAT WE ARE NO LONGER THE MAJOR THREAT

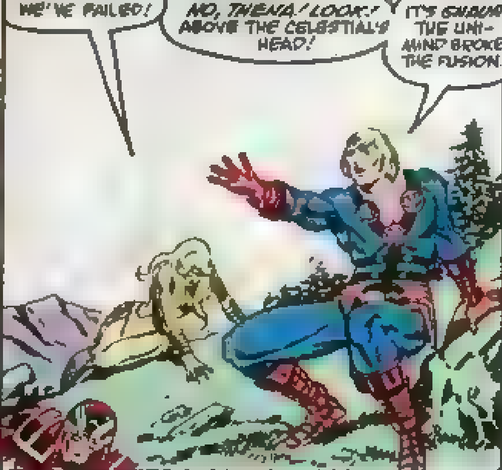

AND IN THAT MOMENT THE UNI-MIND TAPS INTO THE COSMIC EBB AND FLOW OF THE BEING BEFORE IT, REACHES A DECISION


THE ANSWER IS NOT IN THE PURPOSE OF THE CELESTIAL, BUT IN THE OF ITS VERY EXISTENCE AS THE FUSION OF TWO WILLS.
AARRGHH!!
KEY TO THAT FUSION IN THE DISTORTED OF ITS TERRESTRIAL MATTER AND CELESTIAL ENERGY!


THE BALANCE MUST BE
FREE ME!
NO!
FREE ME!
NOOO!!

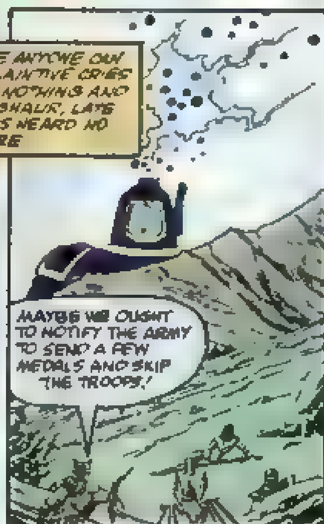

GET OUT OF MY MIND!
I WILL DRIVE YOU OUT! DRIVE YOU ALL OUT!

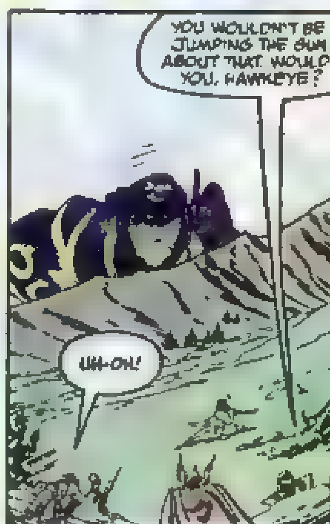

TWIN BOLTS OF CELESTIAL ENERGY FROM
AND IN THAT INSTANT
KARASSSSHH!


WE'VE FAILED!
NO, THENA! LOOK! ABOVE THE CELESTIAL'S HEAD!
IT'S GHAUR! THE UNI-MIND BROKE THE FUSION!


THE DREAMING CELESTIAL MUST HAVE USED GHAUR AS A SEED CRYSTAL TO CREATE AN EN-TITY WHO COULD FREE HIM!
IKARIS! HELP ME!
HELP ME!
HELP ME


WITHOUT GHAUR, THE DREAMER WILL BE HELPLESS!
AND BEFORE ANYONE CAN MOVE THE PLAINTIVE CRIES DIMINISH TO NOTHING AND PRIESTLORD GHAUR, LATE OF LEMURIA, IS HEARD NO MORE


MAYBE WE OUGHT TO NOTIFY THE ARMY TO SEND A FEW MEDALS AND SKIP THE TROOPS!


YOU WOULDN'T BE JUMPING THE GUN ABOUT THAT. WOULD YOU, HAWKEYE?
UH-OH!


SKARRKATHOOM
IKARIS! HE'S DIGGING AGAIN! HOW?
MAYBE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE CELESTIAL AND HIS ENERGY IS SO SMALL NOW THAT HE NO LONGER NEEDS A GO-BETWEEN!


MAYBE ONCE THE CELESTIAL FORM WAS CREATED GHAUR WAS NO LONGER NECES-SARY
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE!
IF WE DON'T STOP HIM NOW, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT STOPPING HIM LATER!

SKARRIAANNG!

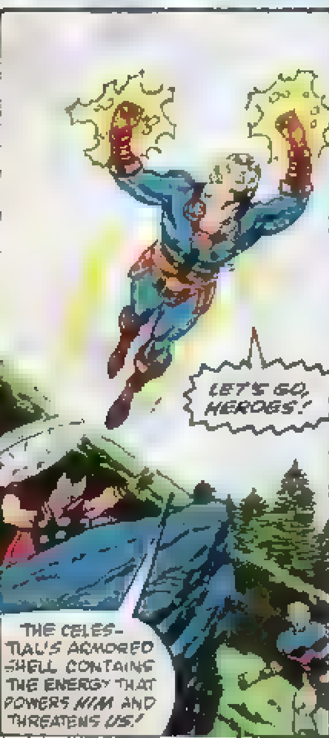
IKARIS! LOOK OUT!

THAT THING HAS REACHED THE *VAULT!* OUR *DOOM* IS UPON US!

THEN WE'VE NO CHOICE!

THE THREAT WILL END ONLY WHEN THE CELESTIALS' ENERGY IS RE-CAPTURED AND CONTAINED...

... AND THAT'S GOING TO BE THE MOST *DANGEROUS TASK* OF ALL!

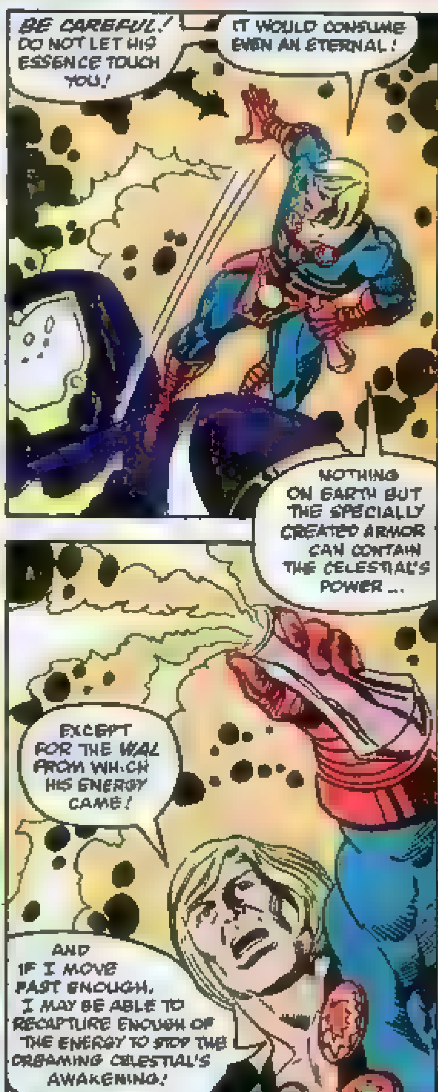


BUT GHAUR IS GONE AND THE INSENTIENT ENERGY OBEYS ONLY *ONE* COMMAND-- TO *FREE* ITS *MASTER!*

WHAT IF THE SHELL WERE *BREACHED?!*


THE CELESTIAL'S BURNING ENERGY IS LEAKING FROM THE RENT IN HIS ARMOR!
AVENGERS, FORWARD! LET US DISMANTLE THIS GIANT BEFORE HE CAN AWAKEN HIS MASTER!

QUICKLY! HE'S ALMOST BROKEN THROUGH INTO THE CRYPT!
THOOOAM!

HE'S SLOWING DOWN!
AND STARTING TO SHRINK!
THE ENERGY IS CONSUMING THE ARMOR AS IT ESCAPES CONFINEMENT!

BE CAREFUL! DO NOT LET HIS ESSENCE TOUCH YOU!
IT WOULD CONSUME EVEN AN ETERNAL!
NOTHING ON EARTH BUT THE SPECIALLY CREATED ARMOR CAN CONTAIN THE CELESTIAL'S POWER...
EXCEPT FOR THE WAL FROM WHICH HIS ENERGY CAME!
AND IF I MOVE FAST ENOUGH, I MAY BE ABLE TO RECAPTURE ENOUGH OF THE ENERGY TO STOP THE DREAMING CELESTIAL'S AWAKENING!

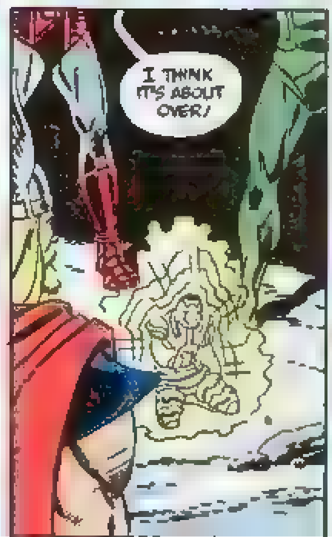

IT'S WORKING! EVERY SECOND HE MOVES MORE SLOWLY!


BUT HE'S GAME TO THE END!
THOR! WATCH OUT! HE'S MAKING ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO OPEN THE VAULT!


THEN WE SHALL MAKE CERTAIN THAT HE NO LONGER HAS THE MEANS TO DO SO!
SCHRRRIKKK!


NO WAY, BUSTER! THIS TIME YOU'RE TAKING THE LONG COUNT!
HE'S SMALL ENOUGH TO HANDLE NOW!


STAND BACK, GUYS!


I THINK IT'S ABOUT OVER!


JUST LIKE THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST

WHAT THE--?!

WITHOUT THE FURY OF THE CELESTIAL TO CONTAIN IT, THE HOLE IS BEGINNING TO COLLAPSE!

AND WE'RE AT THE WRONG END!

BROOMMMMBBLE!!

THEN FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

AND A MOMENT LATER

...THE TORMENTED HILLS ARE QUIET ONCE AGAIN.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RE-BURYING THE DREAMER'S CRYPT.

AND HIS ENERGY IS ONCE AGAIN STORED WITHIN THE VIAL.

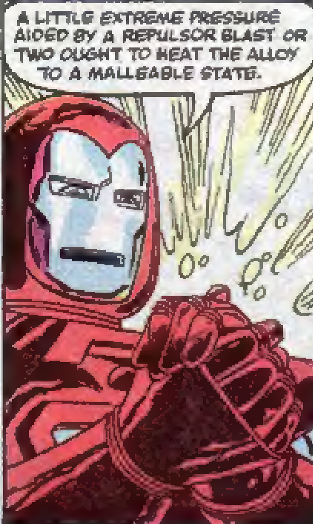
WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME JUST WHAT THE HECK WE'VE BEEN DOING?

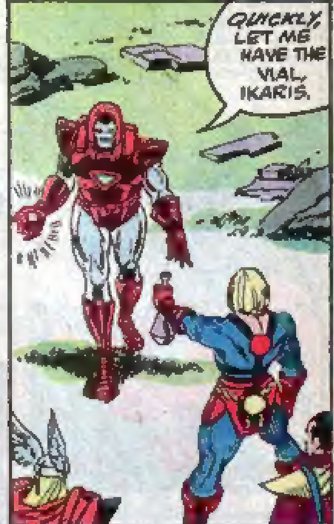
BUT ALREADY IT BEGINS TO SWIRL AND SEEK A WAY OUT!

AND THE VESSEL'S CAP WAS DESTROYED BY GHAUR*.

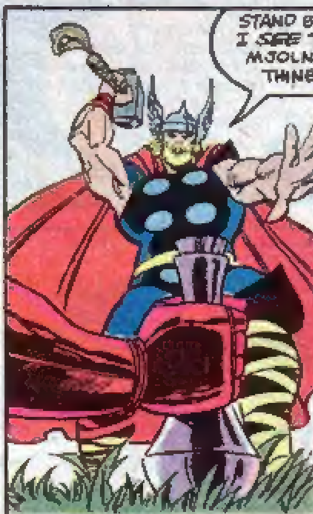
* LAST ISSUE --MAC KARRI.

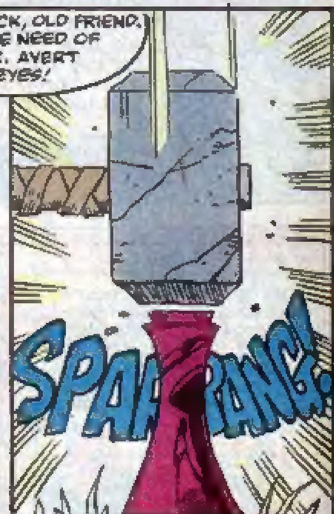

OH NO!!
WE'RE NOT GOING THROUGH ALL THAT AGAIN!
SOME OF THIS DEBRIS FROM THE DREAMER'S VAULT SHOULD DO IT!


A LITTLE EXTREME PRESSURE AIDED BY A REPULSOR BLAST OR TWO OUGHT TO HEAT THE ALLOY TO A MALLEABLE STATE.


QUICKLY, LET ME HAVE THE VIAL, IKARIS.

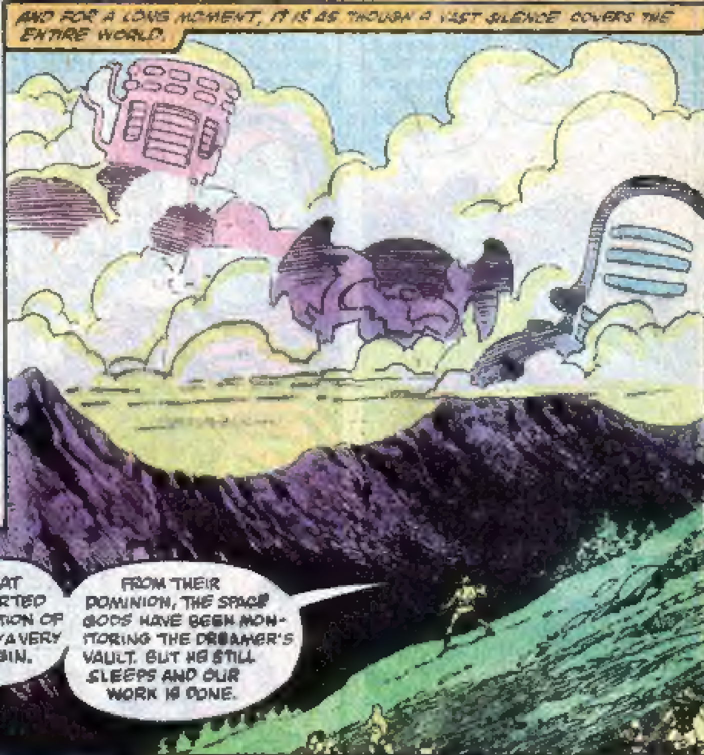

THOR?

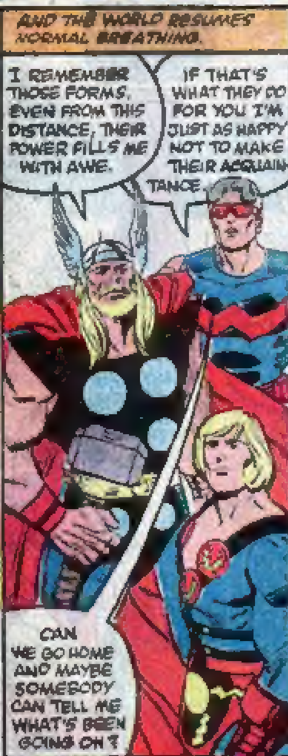

STAND BACK, OLD FRIEND. I SEE THE NEED OF MJOLNIR. AVERT THINE EYES!


SPANG!


AND THAT IS THAT.
YOU KNOW, HONEY, THE TROUBLE IS, I'M NOT GONNA BELIEVE ANY OF THIS WHEN WE WAKE UP TOMORROW.
TAKE CARE, IKARIS.
YOU FOLKS SHOULD DROP BY FOR A VISIT SOMETIME. OLYMPIA'S MOSTLY VACANT THESE DAYS.
SOUNDS GREAT, HANDSOME. WHERE DO WE SIGN UP?
BACK IN YOUR CAGE, KITTY. THERE PROBABLY AREN'T ENOUGH ETERNALS LEFT TO HANDLE YOU.


LIGHTEN UP, IRON MAN. FUN IS WHERE-- IKARIS, LOOK! WHO'S THAT?!
I DON'T SEE--BY THE BLUE FLAME!!


AND FOR A LONG MOMENT, IT IS AS THOUGH A VAST SILENCE COVERS THE ENTIRE WORLD.
I THINK THAT WE HAVE AVERTED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD BY A VERY SMALL MARGIN.
FROM THEIR DOMINION, THE SPACE GODS HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE DREAMER'S VAULT. BUT HE STILL SLEEPS AND OUR WORK IS DONE.


AND THE WORLD RESUMES NORMAL BREATHING.
I REMEMBER THOSE FORMS. EVEN FROM THIS DISTANCE, THEIR POWER FILLS ME WITH AWE.
IF THAT'S WHAT THEY DO FOR YOU I'M JUST AS HAPPY NOT TO MAKE THEIR ACQUAINTANCE.
CAN WE GO HOME AND MAYBE SOMEBODY CAN TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?


AND SO...
THERE THEY GO, THENA. SOME OF EARTH'S NOBLEST HEROES.
WE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE WAVING GOODBYE WITHOUT THEIR HELP.
OR YOURS EITHER. THANKS. YOU SEEM MORE LIKE YOUR OLD SELF SOMEHOW.


THANKS TO AN OLD FRIEND!
WITHOUT HIM, THE UNI-MIND WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AND WE WOULD NOT HAVE WON.
WHO IS THIS UNKNOWN PARAGON?


HE'S WELL KNOWN TO YOU, IKARIS. STEP OUT, KRO!

STEP OUT AND MAYBE I WON'T *OBLITERATE* YOU ON THE SPOT!

FOR THE SAKE OF EARTH, I MAY PARDON YOU BUT I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!

I DON'T GET IT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, IKARIS. JUST THANK HIM!

BUT IF EVER I DREAM OF YOU AGAIN, KRO, I SHALL HUNT YOU DOWN AND *DESTROY* YOU LIKE THE MAD DOG YOU ARE!

DREAMS ARE EPHEMERAL THINGS, THENA. I GAVE UP THE MOST *PRECIOUS* OF MINE.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER GIVING UP YOURS AS A FAIR TRADE.

WHAT HAS KRO TO DO WITH THIS BUSINESS? WHERE WAS *ME* DURING THE FIGHTING?

YOU NEEDN'T SNEER, IKARIS. I TOO HAVE MADE MY SACRIFICES! I GAVE UP A GREAT WEAPON FOR THE GOOD OF EARTH TODAY.

AND PERHAPS THE IMMORTAL LOVE OF AN HONEST WOMAN.

BUT WE ARE WHAT WE ARE AND I WOULD BE THE *RULER* OF THE DEVIANTS.

YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH PEOPLE WERE ONLY PAWNS TO BE CONTROLLED.

ARE THE ETERNALS ANY DIFFERENT, YOU WHO ONCE PLAYED AT BEING GODS WITH ORDINARY MEN?

WE *ARE* MUCH ALIKE, IKARIS... AND WE ARE BOTH HUMAN.

ARE THE DEVIANTS READY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR HUMANITY AND RENOUNCE THEIR VAULTING AMBITIONS?

THE DEVIANTS ARE *MINE* NOW AND I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING THE ETERNALS, *OR* THE CELESTIALS.

I DO NOT PLAN TO FOLLOW IN GHAUR'S FOOTSTEPS AND BECOME *ONE* WITH THE UNIVERSE.

I INTEND TO RULE FOR A LONG TIME. LET THE DREAMING CELESTIAL DREAM FOREVER.

CAN YOU BE TRUSTED, KRO?

AS PROOF OF MY GOOD FAITH, I'LL RETURN THE BODY OF MARGO DAMIAN TO YOU.*

*KILLED IN *ETERNALS* #10 --MAC-KARRI.

AND LET YROISIS' FRIEND, THE ETERNAL ARTIST, REMAIN IN LEMURIA IF HE WISHES. WHO KNOWS?

IT MIGHT EVEN BE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US.

ETERNALS HAVE LIVED TOO LONG TO HOPE FOR THAT, KRO, BUT I'LL SHAKE YOUR HAND ON IT.

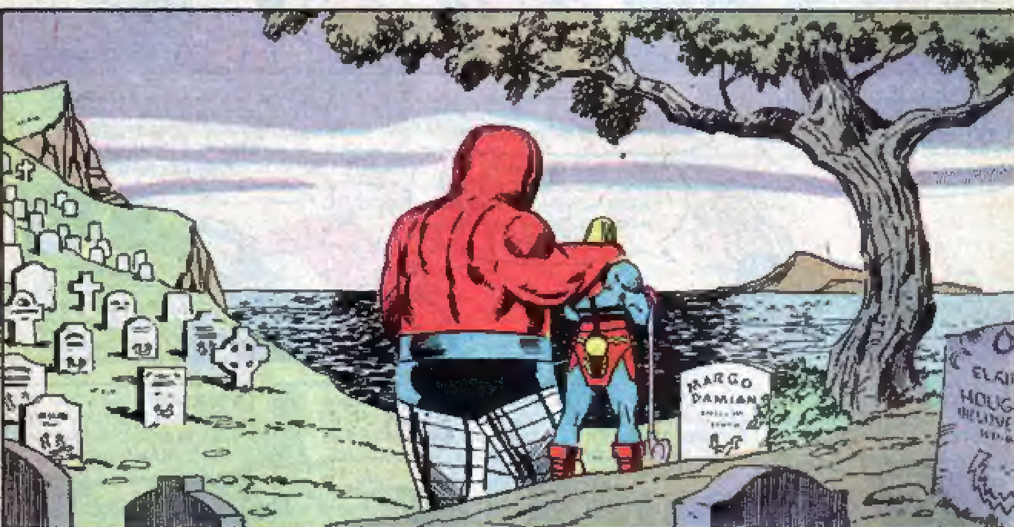
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.

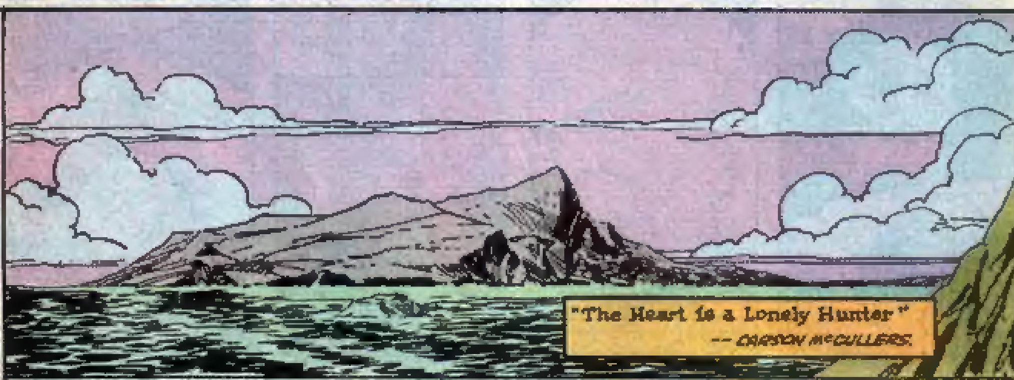

EPILOGUE...


... AN ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN SEA...


FSSSSST!


MARGO
DAMIAN
BELOVED OF
IKARIS


MARGO
DAMIAN


"The Heart is a Lonely Hunter"
-- CARSON McCULLERS.